

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /137 W

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R 051637Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8485

UNCLAS BERN 4931

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: FEDERAL COUNCILLOR ELECTIONS

1. IN ELECTIONS ON DECEMBER 5 TO REPLACE THREE OF THE
SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL WHO HAD RESIGNED
OCTOBER 1, THE PARLIAMENT ELECTED WILLI RITSCHARD (SOCIALIST
REPLACING TSCHUDI), HANS HUERLIMAN (CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT
REPLACING BONBIN) AND GEORGE-ANDRE CHEVALLAZ (RADICAL
DEMOCRAT REPLACING CELIO). ELECTIONS PRESERVED "MAGIC
FORMULA" UNDER WHICH ALL MAJOR PARTIES PARTICIPATE IN
GOVERNMENT.

2. THE PARLIAMENT ESSENTIALLY VOTED FOR CONTINUITY, MODER-
ATION AND EXPERIENCE. AS HAS BECOME ALMOST CUSTOMARY, IT
REJECTED ALL THREE OF THE OFFICIAL CANDIDATES OF THE PARTIES
CONCERNED. THE OFFICIAL CANDIDATES WERE ALL PARTY
WHEELHORSES AND IN TWO CASES WERE VIEWED AS SOMEWHAT MORE
"RADICAL" THAN THE PARTIES THEY REPRESENTED. THE NEW
COUNCILLORS ALL APPEAR WELL QUALIFIED WITH EXTENSIVE
EXPERIENCE AT THE CANTONAL AND FEDERAL LEVEL.

3. MINISTERIAL POSTS WILL BE REALLOCATED BY AGREEMENT
AMONG MEMBERS OF THE NEW FEDERAL COUNCIL AFTER IT CONVENES
IN NEW YEAR. NO UNUSUAL DEPARTURES IN GOVERNMENT POLICIES
ARE EXPECTED.

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4. PARLIAMENT ALSO ELECTED FEDERAL COUNCILLOR ERNST BRUGGER
AS PRESIDENT OF CONFEDERATION FOR 1974 AND FEDERAL COUNCILLOR
PIERRE GRABER WILL BE VICE PRESIDENT.
DAVIS

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Message Attributes

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